



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
June 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Marcela Campoli, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Susan Emery, Laurel Fain, Gabriela Lemus, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Dr. Davis, Tara Clemons Johnson

Members Absent: Jonathan Arias, Kendra Harris, Adam Lustig,

DHHS Staff: Dr. Rogers, Felicia Huges, Meghan Sontag

Guests: Andrew Garrison, Venchele Saint Dic

| Topic/Presenter | Key Points | Action Item/ Responsible Person |
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| Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. The Chair welcomed Commissioners and guests. The Chair reminded Commissioners the Annual Report workgroup paragraphs are due in July. This deadline was moved to July 7th. • The next two COH meetings are July 20th and September 21st (retreat), there will be an August recess. | <p>Workgroup leads to submit workgroup summary to Meghan by July 7th.</p> |
| MCDHHS Health Officer's Report <i>Dr. Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County recently had the 1st case of measles since 2019. One isolated case with travel history. No spread associated with this case. • Air Quality: last week some parts of the County reached Code Purple. 1st day of code purple in the region. County will need to prepare for poor air quality days. • Cannabis legalization: official July 1st in Maryland. School system, Health Department and Police Department are working on communications. • Opioids and Fentanyl: working to increase treatment access and facilities in the area for substance use. Currently, there are only outpatient options for youth. • Question regarding DHHS' communication channels for environmental risks - Press release, social media and included in County Executive's "Things You Need to Know" Thursday messaging. • Question regarding xylazine- Have seen cases in the County, all in adults over 18yrs old. Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer, there is no antidote and causes ulcers at the injection site. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question regarding facility at Seven Locks Road, a proposed center for patients to connect to treatment facilities instead of jail and/or hospitals for substance use or mental health crisis. No update currently. • Question regarding staffing to evaluate health impacts of climate impacts on our communities. Commissioner Gabriela urged DHHS to build points of synergy with environmental teams and offered support as needed. Commissioner also requested communication to workers and employers who are largely outside. • Dr. Rogers provided an update on the Community Health Needs Assessment release date. Anticipating a fall release as it completes final review. Materials include infographic, community partnership summary booklets, town halls, social media venues and a County Council briefing. | |
| <p>Maryland Cannabis Administration <i>Andrew Garrison, MCA Policy Director</i></p> | <p>See Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: What percent of licenses are being allocated through the social equity lens? Every license issued in the state. • Question: What group is responsible for the expungement process? Onus for expungement is on the State with a deadline of July 1, 2024. • Question: Proximity to schools? Listed on pg. 69 of the bill. (B) except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a licensed dispensary may not locate within: (1) 500 feet of: (i) a pre-existing primary or secondary school in the state, or a licensed child care center or registered family child care home under title 9.5 of the education article; or (ii) a playground, recreation center, library, or public park; or (2) 1,000 feet of another dispensary under this title. • Question about medical marijuana and regulations regarding prescribers- Challenges regarding who can prescribe. Providers and patients need to be registered with MCA. • Consumption lounges will be flushed out further in future legislative sessions. • Question about MCA’s availability and willingness to speak with other communities. Andrew confirmed MCA is available and interested in additional presentations as requested. | |
| <p>Approval of May Minutes <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i></p> | <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Marcela Campoli to approve the May 18th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Desiree de la Torre. The minutes were unanimously approved by all present Commissioners.</p> | <p>COH staff to post May minutes on COH website (<i>complete</i>)</p> |
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| <p>Officer Elections <i>Desiree de la Torre, Donna Cawley</i></p> | <p>The Nomination Committee thanked the current Chair and Vice Chair for their leadership. The nomination committee reported they had one nomination for Chair and one for Vice Chair- Susan Emery and Gabriela Lemus, respectively. The Nomination Committee asked for any nominations from the floor, including the secretary role.</p> <p>No additional nominees. Moved forward with candidate statements. Both nominees accepted their nominations prior to this meeting. Susan Emery and Gabriela Lemus provided their candidate statements.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed role of Secretary and decided to have a rotating secretary with a schedule determined at the beginning of the FY year. In the interest of time, commissioners will sign up at the July meeting.</p> <p>Anonymous vote was held. All present voting Commissioners (12) voted approval for Susan Emery for Chair and Gabriela Lemus for Vice Chair.</p> | <p>COH Staff to reach out to Susan Emery and Gabriela Lemus to schedule Co-Chair meeting series (complete)</p> |
| <p>Workgroups: Priorities and Metrics <i>All Commissioners</i></p> | <p>Access to Care and Environmental Health and Education Groups met for working sessions.</p> <p>Environmental Health Group included Cesar, Gabriela, Laurel, Susan, Tara and Cimo.</p> <p>Access to Care included Alana, Betty, Desiree, Donna and Dr. Rogers.</p> | |
| <p>COH Liaison Updates <i>BCC Liaisons</i></p> | <p>Alana- School Health Council is focused on health promotion, fentanyl and substance use outreach. Montgomery County joined the federal lawsuit against social media.</p> <p>Crystal- AAHP is on hiatus after a very successful community day.</p> <p>Donna- No update on Mental Health Advisory Board. Spring forum recording is here.</p> <p>Betty- Community Action Board will be meeting next week.</p> <p>Marcela- LHI- Advocating against bullying in schools and healthcare for all. Met with MCPS executive team.</p> <p>Commissioners briefly discussed dental health policies and county clinics and if a guest presenter would be beneficial in the future. The Chair reminded Commissioners that although speakers provide interesting information, the purpose of inviting them is to collect data and information that will support our advocacy efforts.</p> | |

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| Adjournment | A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Gabriela Lemus to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty Smith. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm. | |
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